

## Talking Points

Senator Thad Cochran Forum on American Enterprise

Mississippi Council on Economic Education

Jackson, Mississippi

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

In 2002, when U.S. Senator Thad Cochran and former Governor William Winter asked the business community to launch the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, they knew what they were talking about. Senator Cochran said, “Teaching teachers works,” and he was right.

Today, the success of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education is measured by:

- Reaching over 2,500 teachers in three years with research-based professional development in economics and financial education;
- Filling the gap, since teachers are not taught economics and financial education in the traditional college curriculum;
- Sponsoring the Mississippi Stock Market Game, which helps teachers and students better understand an important element of the U.S. economy.

- More than 14,000 students in grades 4 through 12 have learned about the real world of business through the Stock Market Game.
- Twenty Mississippi teachers have earned Advanced Placement Economics “certification” thanks to the MCEE and its partnership with Millsaps College and The Phil Hardin Foundation.
- I congratulate school districts that are making the commitment to infuse economics and financial education into the K-12 curriculum. Those districts in the pilot group of Mississippi Economics America Schools are Carroll County, Jackson County, Mississippi School for the Deaf, Poplarville, Rankin County, and Simpson County.

This is a successful public private partnership for our state and is achieving its mission of professional development for teachers in economics and financial education.

- This kind of partnership is delivering results that will make our state’s workforce stronger.

- The infusion of economics and financial education into the curriculum through the professional development of teachers will help our state recover from Katrina and help our state's economic development.

Senator Cochran, we have a highly effective initiative ongoing with the Mississippi Council on Economic Education and we thank you for your support and ask your continued support.

I also thank Dr. Bounds for adding MCEE to his budget and ask the entire business community to continue to do all it can to support this winning effort.

Giving our children the tools they need to succeed is not an option, it is a necessity.